THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) All the welfare schemes in operation in the handloom sector are available for coverage of Adivasi dominated and backward districts.

(b) The welfare schemes in operation are workshed-cum-housing Scheme, coverage of weavers under insurance, health package scheme, and Thrift Fund Scheme. Under Workshed-cum-housing Scheme, subsidy to a maximum of Rs. 14,000/- is provided for construction of urban/rural workshed-cum-house. Under Health Package, assistance is given for specialised medical services to cater to weaving specific disease/ailments. Insurance Scheme with contribution from the weavers, State and Central Government provides an insurance cover of Rs. 10,000/-. Thrift Fund Scheme is in the nature of Provident Fund. These schemes are being implemented and are approved for implementation during Eighth Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Task Force for Garment Quota Policy

229. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a task force to make recommendations for a garment quota policy;

(b) if so, what are terms of the task force; and

(c) what is the present policy and what are the changes likely to be proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Task Force are as under :

1. To make an evaluation of the working of the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for the past few years in respect of Garments and Knitwears.

2. To make recommendations to the Government for formulation of a new term policy beginning 1-1-1994.

(c) The present policy has been in force since 1-1-91 and is valid till 31-12-93. It is not possible at this stage to anticipate the likely changes.

Implementation of order reserving 22 items for handloom sector

230. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has issued an order reserving 22 items for handloom sector;

(b) if so, when this order was issued;

(c) whether it is a fact that the order is not being implemented;

(d) if so, whether any request have been received for its implementation;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what decision has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had issued the order in 1986, reserving 22 items for exclusive production on handlooms.

(c) to (f) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and the Orders issued thereunder could not be implemented because of the stay orders of the Courts. The Supreme Court has now dismissed the Writ Petitions, challenging the validity of the Act and the Orders. The Government is committed to implement the policy of reservation of textile products for the handloom sector and has initiated immediate steps for effective implementation of the Reservation Orders.